

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 03540 280712Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 OMB-01 ACDA-12 EB-08  
TRSY-02 /134 W

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R 280633Z APR 78  
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INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR  
AMEMBASSY KABUL  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 3540

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PORG, KN  
SUBJECT: FOREIGN TRAVEL BY NORTH KOREAN OFFICIALS

REF: SEOUL 1405

SUMMARY: THE NORTH KOREAN DIPLOMATIC CAMPAIGN BEGUN IN  
FEBRUARY, CENTERING ON EXTENSIVE PERSONAL DIPLOMACY CONDUCTED  
ABROAD BY SENIOR AND MID-LEVEL KOREAN OFFICIALS, APPEARS  
TO BE ENTERING ITS SECOND STAGE IN FULL VIGOR, AND IS NOW  
EXPANDING TO INCLUDE COUNTRIES THAT HAVE BEEN CLOSER TO THE  
ROK THAN TO THE NORTH. ONE IMMEDIATE FOCUS OF NORTH KOREAN  
EFFORTS SEEMS TO BE THE FORTHCOMING NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE  
MEETINGS BUT THEIR INTERESTS CLEARLY GO BEYOND THAT.

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PAGE 02 SEOUL 03540 280712Z

CONTINUED COMMENT BY ADDRESSEES APPRECIATED. END SUMMARY.

1. KIM YONG-NAM, HEAD OF THE KOREAN WORKERS PARTY'S  
INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT, RECENTLY EXTENDED HIS THIRD  
TRIP THIS YEAR TO EASTERN EUROPE TO VISIT SEVERAL  
WESTERN COUNTRIES. HIS DELEGATION ATTENDED THE 41ST  
CONGRESS OF THE ITALIAN SOCIALIST PARTY; IN FRANCE THEY

VISITED LEFTIST COLLEAGUES, INCLUDING A MEETING WITH MITTERAND; THEIR VISIT NEXT TO PORTUGAL SIMILARLY INCLUDED PARTY COUNTERPART MEETINGS AS WELL AS AN AUDIENCE WITH PREMIER SUAREZ, AND WE ASSUME THAT THEIR CURRENT STOP IN SPAIN WILL SHOW A SIMILAR PATTERN. KIM IL-SONG SENT A MESSAGE ON APRIL 25 TO COMRADES IBARRURI ("LA PASIONARIA") AND CARRILLO, CONGRATULATING THEM ON THEIR REELECTION RESPECTIVELY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SPANISH C.P. AND GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE PARTY. WHILE NOT MENTIONING THE VISIT OF THE KIM YONG-NAM GROUP, THE MESSAGE WAS TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH THEIR ARRIVAL. FOLLOWING THEIR DEPARTURE FROM SPAIN, THE GROUP MAY PLAN TO VISIT OTHER COUNTRIES BEFORE RETURNING TO PYONGYANG.

2. ROK MOFA ADVISES THAT DPRK SECOND VICE PREISDENT KANG YANG-UK IS EXPECTED TO STOP OVER BRIEFLY IN KARACHI IN EARLY MAY, EN ROUTE TO AN AFRICAN TOUR WHICH WILL INCLUDE SENEGAL, ZAIRE, AND LIBERIA. AN ELDER STATESMAN OF SORTS WHOSE STATUS WAS RECENTLY ELEVATED BY THE APPARENT RETIERMENT OF FIRST VICE PRESIDENT KIM IL, KANG PAID GOODWILL VISITS TO BURMA, BANGLADESH, NEPAL, AND INDIA DURING MARCH, SOLICITING SUPPORT FOR THE HARDLINE DPRK POSITIONS ON KOREAN UNIFICATION, ON REJECTING THE LEGITIMACY OF THE ROK GOVERNMENT, AND ON DEMANDS FOR US TROOP WITHDRAWAL. EXCEPT IN NEPAL, HE  
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PAGE 03     SEOUL 03540 280712Z

DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE SCORED NOTABLE SUCCESS, AND THERE IS SOME EVICENCE THAT EXCESSIVE POLITICAL DEMANDS PLACED BY HIM UPON HIS HOSTS MAY HAVE HURT MORE THAN HELPED PYONGYANG'S CAUSE. REPORTS INDICATE HOWEVER THAT KNAG'S PACE IS LEISURELY AND HIS PERSONAL APPROACH LOW KEY, AND THAT HE SHOWS GREATER ATTENTIVENESS TO LOCAL SITUATIONS THAN DO MANY OTHER SENIOR DPRK OFFICIALS ABROAD.

3. IN ADDITION TO A RECENT ASIAN TOUR BY VICE FOREIGN MINISTER AND NON-ALIGNED SPECIALIST YI CHONG-MOK, AS WELL AS EXTENSIVE VISITING AMONG THE BLOC STATES BY WORKING-LEVEL CULTURAL AND TECHNICAL DELEGATIONS, THE SENIOR GROUP, CONSISTING OF KANG, KIM YONG-NAM, THIRD VICE PRESIDENT PAK SONG-CHOL, THIRD VICE-PREMIER CHONG CHUN-KI, AND FIFTH VICE PREMIER KONG CHIN-TAE WILL HAVE VISITED A TOTAL OF THIRTY COUNTRIES BETWEEN FEBRUARY 1 AND MID-MAY. OF THESE, ONLY KONG CHIN-TAE, WHO IS CONCURRENTLY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, HAS DEALT EXTENSIVELY WITH TRADE MATTERS; THE OTHERS' VISITS HAVE BEEN UNIFORMLY POLITICAL AND IDEOLOGICAL IN FOCUS. FOR THE NEAR FUTURE, THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY

OF FURTHER TOURIST DIPLOMACY, INVOLVING AMONG OTHERS  
KIM IL-SONG HIMSELF,WHO HAS STANDING INVITATIONS TO  
A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES AND IS RUMORED TO BE PLANNING TO  
VISIT BURMA IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

4. THIS SUSTAINED BURST OF DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY SEEMS TO  
HAVE BOTH GENERAL AND SPECIFIC AIMS. IN THE IMMEDIATE  
FUTURE, PYONGYANG EVIDENTLY HOPES TO ELICIT SOME SORT  
OF STATEMENT FROM THE FORTHCOMING NON-ALIGNED MEETINGS  
IN KABUL AND BELGRADE IN SUPPORT OF ITS VIEWS ON KOREAN  
ISSUES, AND RECENT REPORTS INDICATE THAT THIS OBJECTIVE  
IS LIKELY TO BE ACHIEVED. BEYOND THAT,THE NORTHKOREANS  
ARE OBVIOUSLY CONCERNED WITH SLOWING DOWN THE GROWING  
TREND TOWARD RECOGNITION OF BOTH KOREAS, AND THE  
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PAGE 04 SEOUL 03540 280712Z

INCREASING PRAGMATIC INTEREST MAY COUNTRIES ARE SHOWING  
IN ACTIVE, CHIEFLY ECONOMIC, RELATIONS WITH THE ROK. THE  
LATEST NORTHKOREAN EFFORTS, WHICH SEEM TO BE AIMED AT  
COUNTRIES THAT HAVE HITHERTO BEEN STRONGLY INCLINED TO  
FAVOR THE ROK,SUGGEST THAT THEY ENVISION SOMETHING  
OF A COUNTER-OFFENSIVE, DESIGNED AT LEAST TO MAKE SEOUL  
NERVOUS, WHETHER OR NOT IT ACHIEVES ANYTHING FOR  
PYONGYANG EMBASSY WILL APPRECIATE CONTINUED REPORTS  
AND/OR COMMENT BY ADDRESSEE POSTS ON OUTCOMES OF VISITS.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014